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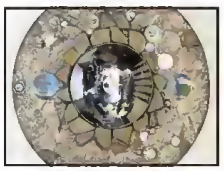

Find out what's happening at the Pumphouse 8

Joe Pilliteri set to entertain 12

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Back to school

KAREN SKEOCH/NIAGARA ADVANCE

Royal Elite International Academy opened its doors for the first time in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Tuesday. Pictured from left, is NOTL student Jessica Keller, principal Michelle Wilson and Lord Mayor Pat Darte.

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Wine run to benefit Red Roof retreat

KRIS DUBÉ
Special to the Niagara Advance

The rural backroads of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be the setting for Red Roof Wine Run on Oct. 1.

A charity event that supports the Red Roof Retreat, a non-profit organization that provides quality respite and recreational programs to Niagara children, youth and young adults with special needs and their families.

The second annual edition of the event will follow last year's effort, which raised $12,000 for the cause and saw more than 140 runners participate.

"Last year was awesome – it was a huge turnout and we're hoping for that, at least," said Jaclyn Willms from Niagara Fitness and Rehabilitation, who organizes the event with Breanne Schultz from NOTL Chiropractic.

Willms said the Red Roof Retreat was an easy choice as the benefactor of the annual event – as they offer programs to support people with special needs of all ages.

"We want to help them however we can," she said.

After the event, which involves five-kilometre and 10-kilometre timed races, as well as a two-kilometre family run, participants will be treated to a free lunch – as well as wine for the adults.

The starting line is at Pillitteri Estates Winery.

Organizers are currently seeking sponsors and other organizations who would like to get involved but Willms says the major push right now is attracting participants.

"Right now, we need runners – people to know and get excited about it," she said.

For more information, you can contact Willms at info@niagarafit.com or Schultz at breanne@notlchiropractic.com.

There is also an online registration form available.

Red Roof Retreat is a place where relationships and skills are developed, awareness is created and bonds are nurtured, through understanding and respect for each individual's special needs, says the organization's website.

Founded in 2001, Red Roof Retreat sits on an 11-acre property in NOTL.

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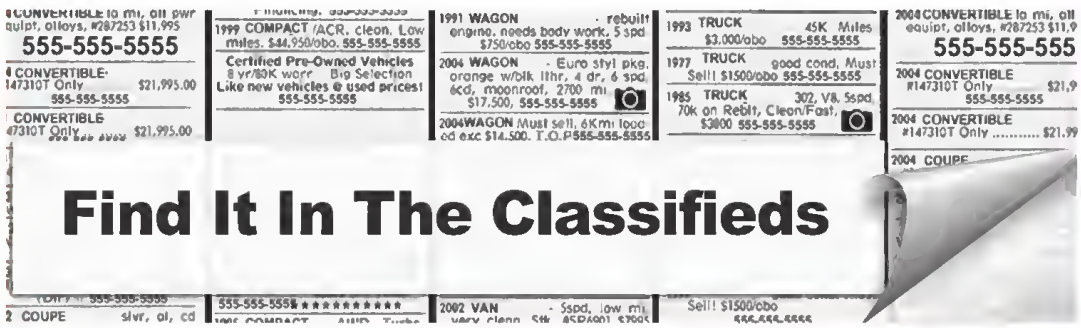

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Town to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday

SARAH FERGUSON
Postmedia Network

With Canada set to celebrate its 150th birthday next year, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is planning to mark the occasion and has formed a committee to plan special events.

The Canada Sesquicentennial Committee will be co-chaired by Bill Cowie and Rick Meloen to help support various initiatives in NOTL Virgil, St. Davids and Queenston.

Other committee members are Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Councillor Terry Flynn, a Town Special Events Coordinator, representatives from Parks Canada, NOTL Public Library, NOTL Chamber of Commerce, Niagara Historical Society and Museum, and volunteers from The Friends of Fort George and members of the community. Subcommittees, appointed by the co-chairs, will manage specific aspects of Committee-initiated celebratory events.

"It's Canada's 150th birthday and NOTL is the first capital of Upper Canada. We need to make sure we present ourselves that way, and that's why this committee is important," Lord Mayor Pat Darte said.

"Council's wish was to provide Town residents with a clear and consistent view of all the events planned to commemorate Canada's 150th year of Confederation. We anticipate everyone's enthusiastic participation," he added.

As part of Canada's 150th celebrations, Darte said local elementary school students will gather on at Navy Hall on Sept. 19 to create a living Canadian flag, with students wearing red and white T-Shirts.

More information about upcoming events can be found online at www.notlcanada150.ca. Residents can watch for an announcement about more sesquicentennial events. The website includes a calendar of events that will be evolving as 2017 approaches.

Pictured from left are Canada Sesquicentennial committee members Cathy Simpson, Jim Alexander, John Mather, Janice Thompson, Bill Cowie (co-chair), Rick Meloen (co-chair), Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Bill French, Tony Chisholm, Sarah Kauffman and Richard Coyne

Commemorating Laura Secord's birthday

SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE NIAGARA ADVANCE

The Queenstown Post Office will celebrate Laura Secord's birthday, with the unveiling of a pictorial cancellation stamp during an all-day celebration on Sept. 13. The event will include an educational display of Laura Secord, free postcards, and a presentation. The stamp was designed by Queenston resident Kathy Thomas.

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For the Love of Arts Show planned for February

ANNIE PASQUARIELLO
Special to the Niagara Advance

An exciting new art show is coming to the Niagara Region.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre will be holding the inaugural For the Love of Arts Show in February at The Club at White Oaks.

"This unique art event will be a premier juried art show for high quality fine art and master crafts, and will feature the region's best established and emerging artists," says Rima Boles, executive director of The Niagara Pumphouse in a press release. "In partnership with The Club at White Oaks, this event will attract tourists, residents, and patrons of the arts from across the province and the United States."

The name For the Love of Art came to light as it will be a celebration of the arts with exciting live entertainment, fine food and wine, demonstrations, and workshops which will be supported by the more than 4,000 members of The Club and The Niagara Pumphouse.

Hermine Steinburg, who is on the board of directors for The Niagara Pumphouse says they have started a new strategic plan until 2020.

"We wanted to develop community partnerships and create unique fundraisers for the Pumphouse," she says.

Established and emerging artists are encouraged to submit their applications and best in show awards will be presented at the event. Winners' work will also be showcased at The Niagara Pumphouse during the 2017 season.

The Niagara Pumphouse will not be taking any commission on the art sold by exhibitors at the inaugural show and the price of $250 for the exhibit space will be guaranteed for the following year for all of the inaugural artists. The application fee is $10.

"The event is in February close to Valentine's Day. This is a great opportunity to change gift ideas and support local. It's a unique show and we would love to see people come out, have fun and even try a workshop," says Steinburg.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is a not-for-profit organization who engages the community through educational programs, exhibitions and special events to celebrate and appreciate the visual arts.

The deadline for submissions is Sept.30. Applications can be found online with further details about the event at www.niagarapumphouse.ca. tFor more information email at office@niagarapumphouse.ca, or follow them on Twitter @pumphouse_arts or like them on Facebook.

For the Love of Arts will take place on Feb. 4, 2017 at the Club at White Oaks in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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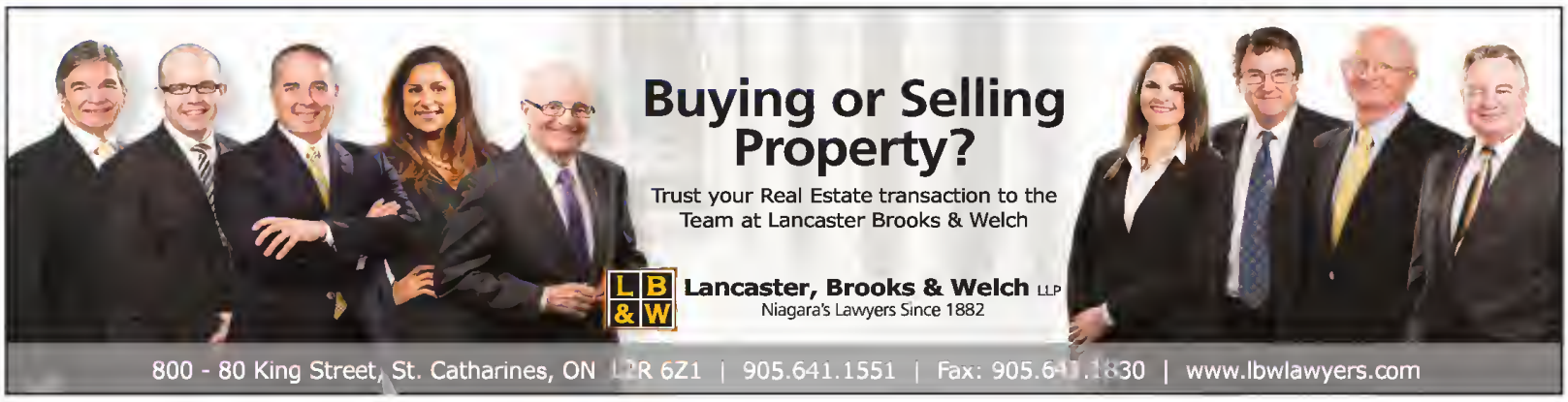

Wineries come together to support United Way

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

A partnership between the United Way and several of Niagara's wineries will go a long way to helping people dealing with poverty and homelessness, disadvantaged children, those with mental and physical disabilities, and victims of violence and abuse.

More than 25 wineries have come together to launch a fundraising drive for the United Way of St. Catharines and District, which will help the non-profit organization support various programs delivered by more than 40 agencies throughout the region.

This year, the Wineries of Niagara Leadership Challenge will provide more than $100,000 in matching funds to support the United Way.

For those who make a first-time donation of $1,000 or more to the United Way, the participating wineries will match the gift, dollar for dollar. So, when someone donates $1,000, the United Way receives $2,000.

For those increasing the amount of their leadership donation by more than 10 per cent, the wineries will match the increase in the donation.

"We're really stoked at how fantastic the response was from the (local wine) industry," said Donald Ziraldo, who is co-chairing the challenge, along with his wife, Victoria.

"Sept. 14th we're going to have a reception at Inniskillin. We're going to ask people to come and match the challenge — in other words, we've officially got about $130,000, and we're going to ask people to match it $1,000 a piece. We've got a few already that have done that."

Ziraldo, a well-known, long-time industry pioneer who was a co-founder of Inniskillin Wines in Niagara and now produces a Ziraldo ice wine, said he and his wife were asked to co-chair the challenge match.

"The lead donation has always been $50,000 in the past, so when we went to the board meeting they briefed us on it, and told us what's involved, who the United Way is. My wife, in particular, thought because it's very supportive of the youth, we wanted to really engage in it," he said.

"Instead of going to one big donor ... we thought why don't we do it as a community of wineries and growers."

Ziraldo said he "just picked up the phone" and started calling all of his industry colleagues, as well as some of the owners of new wineries he had yet to meet.

Ziraldo said he and his wife pitched the idea of doing a pledge from each winery for five years at $5,000 — $1,000 a year.

"We were going to do 10, which times five is $50,000. Well, I think we're at 26 now, so that's like $130,000."

Although Ziraldo said many of Niagara's wineries have always been supportive of their community, he didn't expect such an overwhelming response.

"I thought I was going to have trouble getting 10 at $5,000 each, and we got 26, and I didn't call everybody because we ran out of time," he said.

"It's really an issue of community involvement. I think it speaks to the community."

Ziraldo said it's common to see local wineries pouring wine at various community events.

"I thought with the United Way, since there's 40 or 50 organizations (they support), that that's a community. We, as a wine industry, are a community. Many people perceive it to be very lucrative business, and it's really not that lucrative. It looks like it because we're in the hospitality business, but it's a lot of hard work, and there's a lot of competition from around the world. So, I think community helping community in our local environment is really significant."

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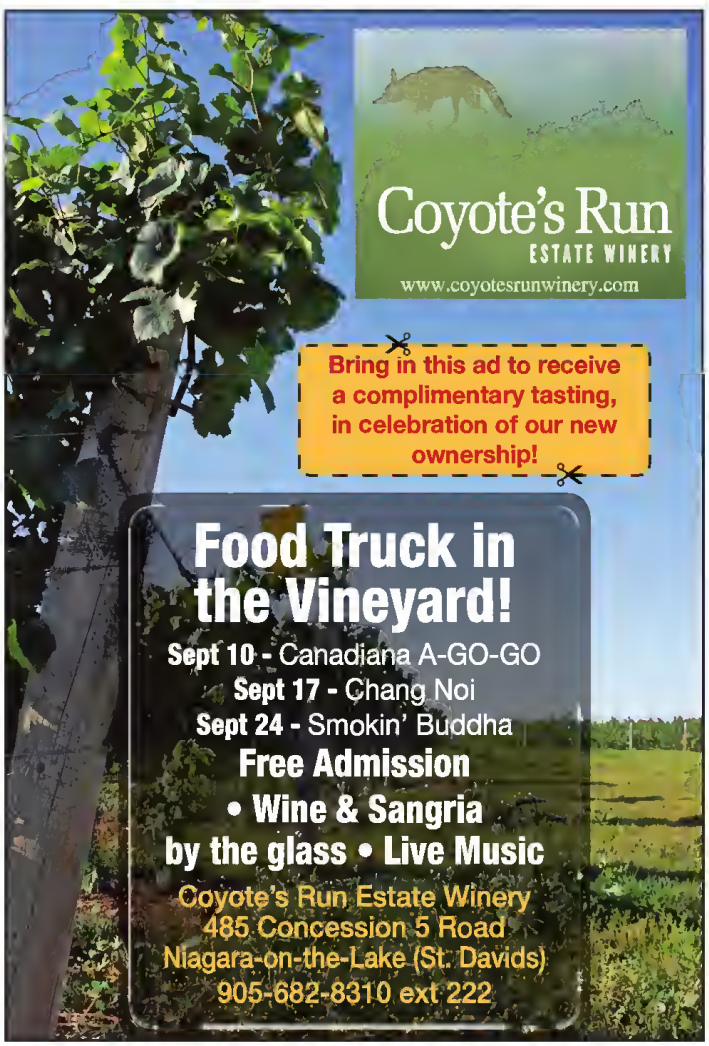

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The Niagara Advance

Peter Conradi regional editor
Penny Coles Editor

Point of View

Public input missing from escarpment control expansion

In her early days as premier, Kathleen Wynne was frequently criticized for lack of action.

At one point in 2013 there were 36 panels consulting on various issues. They were seen as an excuse to avoid action.

How times have changed. Today consultation seems verboten at Queen's Park.

Some examples: Owners of Hydro One, the people of Ontario, weren't consulted on the sale of the utility.

The opportunity for consultation was the 2014 election. Wynne should have made her plans to sell Hydro One clear so voters could have cast judgment.

If there was even a peep out of the premier on the issue, I can't find it.

Then came Bill 100, the bill to "improve" trail access throughout Ontario. To be fair, several groups of trail users were consulted but not a single landowner. Many of Ontario's trails cross private land.

As a result, a number of trails will be closed to snowmobilers and others this winter because many landowners don't trust the bill and regulations that might be added by bureaucrats.

By the way, the Wynne government is not alone in this one. The Progressive Conservatives are complicit and quick to reassure landowners there are no threats to their rights in the bill.

Smart owners won't believe it until amendments are made to clear the slightest ambiguity.

Now we come to the issue of expanding the Niagara Escarpment Commission planning area.

The escarpment is a distinctive geographic rock formation that runs from Niagara to Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

The proposed changes are part of an effort by the province to update the escarpment plan and three others, Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Today we're dealing with the proposals for the escarpment.

The commission website says the proposed extension of the planning area came from "recommendations by the Niagara Escarpment Commission through its series of Plan Review Discussion Papers on how the NEP should be updated."

From the point of view of landowners and municipalities affected by the proposed changes, that's like asking a fox to design the new henhouse.

In response to protests, the province has extended the comment deadline from Sept. 30 to Oct. 31.

However, there is no indication what specific new restrictions landowners might face.

Grey County Warden Al Barfoot, asked the obvious question: "How can you comment on that?" Much of the proposed expansion will be in Grey.

The commission enforces another level of planning on top of county and municipal planning regulations.

The objective, to protect a unique landscape and control development, seems reasonable on paper. However, a rural museum on controlled lands cancelled a plowing match last year because officials believed they couldn't allow sod on the property to be turned without approval.

Therein lies the problem. Plowing might not have been a problem, but the fact organizers even believed they had to get approval for such activity scares land owners in the escarpment area.

Getting back to the expansion of the planning area, it's difficult to understand why public input would not be welcome at the beginning of the process.

The fact the government is so shy about input makes folks wonder about a possible hidden agenda.

Plus, this is the same government that yanked all local planning control over the establishment of wind factories, thus destroying other types of land and development in rural Ontario.

How can it be trusted?

jmerriam@bmts.com

Do you remember?

JIM SMITH/SPECIAL TO THE NIAGARA ADVANCE

The official swim from Niagara to the Toronto Exhibition started from the Niagara Lions beach. However the winner of the swim, 16 year old, Marilyn Bell, slipped into the water at, Youngstown N.Y. at 11:07 p.m. on Sept. 8 of 1954.

Letters to the Editor

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

On behalf of The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society and Communities in Bloom, I would like to thank the people of NOTL for your enthusiastic participation in the Garden of the Week contest this summer.

You nominated many beautiful gardens from all the villages and the rural areas of the town. Our thanks also to the judges, all volunteers from the horticultural society, who spent Thursday mornings making difficult choices from among the nominations. They saw many wonderful representations of the beautiful gardens we have in abundance in NOTL. Once again, thank you all for your participation.

MARION BOON
CHAIR, GARDEN OF THE WEEK COMMITTEE
NOTL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Everything you ever wanted to know about crabgrass

This article purports to tell you everything you wanted to know about crabgrass but were afraid to ask because people have been complaining about the 'devil' weed

But you really don't want to know everything there is about crabgrass because it becomes tedious. Interestingly, when you google it the first thing that comes up is The Top Ten Crabgrass Killers, which shows that crabgrass hatred is firmly rooted in the gardening population.

So here are some basics. Its scientific name is Digitaria, so it also called 'finger' grass as it reaches out its fingers in all directions. There are other names, as well, Bermuda grass, quack grass and fonio, all versions of the plant. It grows in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions in both hemispberes.

In some places down south it is grown as lawn because it's much hardier than our grass (as you well know) and it's soft on the feet. Some seeds (fonio) can be toasted and turned into flour, which can be made into porridge or fermented to make beer. (Coming soon to a brewery near you). It is also a staple crop in parts of Africa and has decent nutrient qualities as forage for cattle.

But the hatred this poor plant has incurred in North America in endemic.

Crabgrass is an annual grass capable of producing 150,000 seeds per season. The seeds germinate in the late spring and early summer and out-compete the domesticated lawn grasses, expanding outward in a circle up to 12 inches (30 cm) in diameter. It also produces seeds throughout the summer, so mowing it doesn't help.

In the autumn the plants die, leaving spaces in the lawn. This becomes prime areas for the crabgrass seeds to germinate for the following season. Crabgrass is not actually the cause of a poor lawn but a symptom, and it will return annually if the lawn is not restored with fertilization and proper watering.

There are a number of ways to get control of this weed, none of them easy. The best time is to treat the soil in the bare patches and in your beds is in early spring before the seeds germinate. There are a number of 'pre-emergent' solutions. We used to wait until they had seeded and then exterminate them with solutions like Roundup, but that had the dastardly side effect of killing off many other plants.

Several years ago, at Iowa State University, a by-product of corn-milling, corn gluten meal, was discovered to pose no risk to people or animals. With 60 percent protein it is often used as food for fish and livestock. It has 10 percent nitrogen, by weight, so it acts as a fertilizer

The granular herbicide works by creating a chemical barrier at the surface of the soil which kills the seeds as they germinate. It can also wipe out chickweed, dandelions and purslane.

The trick in not killing your lawn as well is the timing of applying the pre-emergent. The first spraying should be in the spring when the soil reaches over 10 degrees Celsius. The moment the forsythia begins to bloom is another marker (for those of us who do not have soil thermometers.) Not to mention that the soil temperatures will vary in different spots in your yard. By now you may be thinking, really I don't mind a little crabgrass.

There are many products in the market for the corn meal gluten as there are other pre-emergents. Read the instructions carefully. You can use a pump-up tank, a spray bottle or a hose end sprayer (but don't use the same one for fertilizers as the residue might kill the plants). After applying to the areas you want, you water well but then do not water the area for several days. So you also need to check your weather forecasts.

The nitrogen in the corn meal gluten is supposed to act as a fertilizer for your lawn at the same time which will make the lawn grow thicker, thus giving less chance for the crabgrass to grow.

The treatment can be done again in June, and then toward the end of the summer.

Some groups swear by this method, especially those who manufacture these products, but I hate to tell you, there are also studies which say it's never been proven to work. I will try it however, this spring. Oh yes, and by the way, it's expensive. Just sayin'.

I will also not be spraying everywhere because each year I get a fine crop of purslane and I eat it. The pioneers did, and I find it a tasty treat.

If you're disheartened, there's always mulch and the five-fingered method.

Genetics point to cause of sudden death in athletes

When I was in Boston, the head of cardiology and later medicine at Tufts University Medical Center had just written a book on sudden death in young athletes.

The book was prompted by several high-profile deaths in basketball and other high-stress sports. The cause in several cases turned out to be hereditary and related to genetic mutations involving one of the key proteins involved in muscle contraction – in this case the heart muscle.

In the 1960s and '70s two members of the famous Huxley family sorted out the underlying mechanisms of muscle contraction. Andrew Huxley won a Nobel Prize in 1963. Work from their laboratories and others showed that there were two key proteins – one myosin and the other actin –, which in an energy-dependent fashion, ratchet past one another, shortening each muscle fiber, and in the process increase the force of contraction. Take my word for it – the underlying mechanisms – structurally and biochemically - are elegant. The point however is that, as with all other proteins, the blueprint for these proteins lies with specific protein-encoding genes and that some of those young athletes who suffered sudden unexpected death in their prime turned out to have mutations affecting genes encoding the myosin protein.

In the case of some mutations affecting myosin too much force is generated by the muscle fibers and as might be suspected, those muscle fibers burn a lot more energy doing so, compared to normal muscle fibers. The trouble is that all that brute force damages the muscle fibers and eventually leads to thickening (hypertrophy) and scarring of the walls of the heart's ventricles and greatly increases the risk of sudden death.

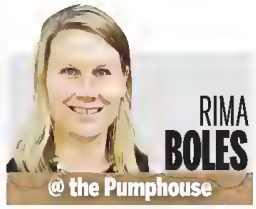
be disorder is called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM). The trouble is that mutations in virtually every gene affecting myosin structure and function may cause the same clinical disorder. And because so many genes may be involved, gene-editing techniques such as CRISPR-Cas9 probably don't offer the best solution, at least for now.

Fortunately there's a way of tamping down the overly active contractions in these disorders. A small-molecular inhibitor, MYK-461, marketed by MyoKardia, reduces the force generated by affected muscle fibers and the energy they burn, and given early enough, prevents the remodeling of the heart and risk of sudden death characteristic of this genetically transmitted disorder. Given by mouth with water, MYK-461 certainly works in genetically engineered models of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy in mice and looks very much like the solution to HCM in humans. Given that HCM affects roughly one in 100 humans, the disorder is common – think 10 to 20 patients in the NOTL area - and solution is important, possibly involving MYK-461 or some similar acting molecule.

Some mutations of myosin genes have the opposite effect. They create myosin which generates too little force, not more as in HCM, and result in a flabby thin-walled heart, which is very prone to heart failure. This family of genetically determined heart diseases is called dilated cardiomyopathy or DCM for short. This raises the question of whether molecules designed to increase the power and length-changing properties of myosin, might just make the heart more efficient and less susceptible to the later development of DCM.

I bring these two examples of genetically determined diseases to your attention for two reasons. First we now live in the world of molecular medicine where treatments can be tailor-made to solve specific defects at the molecular level. And second, not all genetic disorders lend themselves to gene editing because sometimes there are simply too many genes involved to fix with current iterations of gene editing. Even so, as was illustrated with HCM, the solution may lie with bypassing the genetic abnormality and in this case, devising a molecule to put the molecular brakes on an 'over active' force generating system. It seemed to work. These elegant studies remind us that understanding genetics and the newer gene-editing techniques is not only 'hot' these days, but also very much the future of medicine.

New fall programs set to begin at the Pumphouse



September signals back-to-school and it seems a fitting time to consider the importance of education.

The Niagara Pumphouse is passionate about providing educational opportunities for all ages. This includes exhibitions, artist talks, tours and lectures that explore various themes through art as well as hands-on art classes, workshops and camps for children, youth and adults.

This month, we are pleased to welcome mixed-media artist Janny Fraser, whose exhibition makes you think about time and the process of urbanization. We are also featuring a selection of artworks in our Members' Show, including a selection by our instructors and students.

In our 2015-16 season, we had over 550 students from ages five to 65-plus enrolled in our programs and we are excited to start our new season with some new and exciting programs as well as a number of returning favorites. Our missions is to engage, enrich and celebrate our diverse and growing population through the visual arts. Visit the Pumphouse for a chance to create, celebrate and appreciate the visual arts.

Fraser's exhibition, entitled Reflections, features a mixed-media installation that explores the issue of time and the process of urbanization.

"I am interested in the idea of time as a vehicle for change and transformation. I am interested in the growth patterns visible in the natural landscape, as well as in the overviews of cities and the urban landscape," says Fraser. Her body of work is both influenced by and reflects the fast pace of urbanization and how time is a vehicle for change and transformation, "with the results shaping our environments and affecting our sense of place," the artist explains. Photography and reflective convex mirrored surfaces in the artworks include the viewer as part of this installation, mirroring the process of global urbanization.

Fraser immigrated from the Netherlands to Ontario in 1956. She studied at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto and majored in drawing, painting and printmaking. As she developed her work, she continued to take further courses in fibre, clay and photography. Using these different techniques she developed a body of work in mixed-media.

Fraser has exhibited in group and solo exhibitions in Ontario and Western New York. The exhibition at the Niagara Pumphouse is on display until Sept. 25.

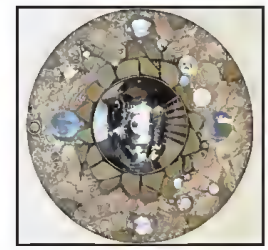
The artwork in our Members' Show varies in media and subject matter – but reflects originality. There are some pieces by our instructors as well as some completed in our classes by students. Visiting the show might inspire you to sign up for an upcoming class or workshop.

For adults, our fall schedule includes a selection of 11 classes, 16 different workshops and drop-in programs. Adult programs include Drawing (Life Drawing & Drawing for Painting), Painting (acrylic, oil and watercolour), Enameling, Plein-Air Painting, Clay, Art History, Painting on Silk, Soap-Making, Photography, Stencils, Calligraphy, Sculpture, Zentangles and Fused Glass.

If you have been thinking you might want to try your hand at painting, the fall is a good time to enroll in our beginner and absolute beginner class. This eight-week class is taught by artist and instructor Susan Dobson who introduces students to acrylic and watercolour painting.

The Pumphouse offers children and youth art classes and workshops on weekends and after school. We are thrilled to have our art camp co-ordinator, Sarah Porciello, returning to the Pumphouse to teach our Saturday children's classes: Morning-Mini Masters for ages 5 to 8 and Afternoon Art Adventures for ages 9 to 12 and has a number of exciting (and messy) art project planned.

The Niagara Pumphouse is looking forward to partnering with the NOTL Library again to offer youth programs. We had a very successful photography youth workshop this summer are excited about our Cartooning & Graphic Novels Workshop for ages 12+ this fall. Mike Gagnon, a comic book professional who has worked for Marvel and Dark Horse, will be teaching this four-week youth workshop Thursdays, 6nto 8 p.m. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of cartooning and sequential art and lessons will be supported through demonstrations and visual examples of various graphic novels including some from the library's collection.



Pumphouse welcomes mixed-media artist Janny Fraser this month

Professional artist and educator Beata O'Connell will be teaching two after-school youth programs at the Pumphouse. After-School Art & Artists for ages nine to 12, will introduce students to a variety of artistic styles and techniques by exploring art historical periods and examining selected artists. Students will work with view finders to observe shapes and colour and apply demonstrated techniques to create their own interpretations of famous artworks. In our After-School Art Studio for ages 13-17, teens will build on the principles and elements of design and focus on developing strong drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpting skills that will be applied to finished artworks.

This fall we will continue to offer our Family Friendly Drop-In Studio, the last Sunday of each month, a great opportunity for the whole family to explore art and get creative. Families are encouraged to see the exhibition in our gallery and then get their hands messy working on their own artwork in our studio. Please visit www.niagarapumphouse.ca for more details. To register, please call 905-468-5455 or visit the Pumphouse (247 Ricardo St., NOTL), or online: www.niagarapumphouse.ca

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1593 Four Mile Creek Road,
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Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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2017 BUDGET
REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

On behalf of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Department of Corporate Services will accept 2017 Requests for Financial Assistance packages, in the form of an electronic presentation, up until **September 20, 2016**.

Please be advised, 2017 Request for Financial Assistance is replacing the previous discretionary grant process.

The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is aware that various organizations, groups and events promote and improve upon the cultural, social and economic well-being of the community. In the course of annual budget deliberations and subject to budget constraints, Council may approve requests for financial assistance in order to support the organizations, groups or events that will be of direct or indirect benefit to the citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Eligible organizations will present their 2017 Request for Financial Assistance by way of an electronic presentation (maximum 10 minutes) at the September 26, 2016 Finance Advisory Committee meeting, in the Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m.

For more information about formulating your electronic presentation for financial assistance, please visit the Town's website www.notl.org for details and criteria with regard to 2017 Request for Financial Assistance. A detailed page will explain what is required to be part of your electronic package.

Request for Financial Assistance electronic presentations will be accepted by email to vbutters@notl.org until 4:00 p.m. on September 20, 2016. Please note all submissions will be considered public information subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Holly Dowd, Director of Corporate Services / Town Clerk
August 25, 2016

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Between 8:30am – 3:00pm
St. Davids & Queenston
Drop off at 5 Front St S

Contact Tony Hendriks 905-687-0278
Scott Ruttan 905-468-9735

WWW.NIAGARADVANCE.CA

Business leaders, entrepreneurs talk about keys to success

Special to the Niagara Advance

The first annual Verbatim Exposition will take place on Sept. 15 at Queen's Landing Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Expo will be a gathering of students, successful business leaders, and entrepreneurs from leading post-secondary institutions and up-and-coming companies.

The inaugural event's keynote speaker will be Dragons' Den: Next Gen cast member Nicole Verkindt.

She is the founder of Offset Market Exchange (OMX), an online platform that manages the obligations government contractors have to invest in local economies.

The platform generates data analytics to help governments understand economic impacts of procurement decisions.

In the heart of Ontario's wine country, guest speakers will share their stories about building and expanding their ventures, along with the obstacles they have faced along the way.

Verbatim Co-Founder Greg Claroni said the inaugural event, which will also include a trade show, is shaping up to be one that people who work in a wide range of fields will find valuable.

"Whether you are an aspiring inventor, the owner or manager of a small business, or a corporate leader – this event will provide plenty of value to people who work in all types of fields. We believe that attendees will leave with actionable insights from Canada's top executives and startup companies," said Claroni.

Also speaking at the Verbatim Expo are: Alex Ross (Patent Lawyer); Lori Hall (Trademark Lawyer); Jeffery Potvin (CEO of Hardboot Inc.); Christine Bird (Co-Founder of Plum); Isabel Hoffmann (Founder of TellSpec); Roxanne Pettipas (Founder of Buddy Belts); Henry Chong (Founder of Revelo Electric); Stuart Lowther (Founder of Element Nutrition); Rudy Callageri and (Founder of Zootly).

The conference will be live-streamed in educational institutions and businesses across Canada.

"We have such a diverse lineup of business professionals joining us for this year's Expo – it's going to be a great day for everyone who attends and we are excited to take our first step towards bringing together entrepreneurs here in Canada and abroad," he said.

Visit www.verbatim.co.com for more information and to reserve tickets for our Expo. The event's main sponsor is Employment Professionals Canada.

Dragons' Den: Next Gen cast member Nicole Verkindt will be the guest speaker at the first annual Verbatim Exposition on Sept. 15.

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RED ROOF WINE RUN

Pillitteri Estates Winery, Niagara-on-the-Lake Chiropractic & Niagara Fitness and Rehabilitation

are hosting the Red Roof Wine Run to raise money for Red Roof Retreat.

Date: October 1st, 2016
Start Time: 11:00am
Start Location: Pillitteri Estates Winery

Prices for Registration

2km Family Run	5km Walk/Run	10km Run
$40	$60	$80

Prices include a swag bag, a complimentary glass of wine from Pillitteri Estates Winery and a BBQ lunch from Gooddine Catering.

All proceeds go to Red Roof Retreat.

Sign up to go niagarafit.com or notlchiropratic.com
For questions call us at 905 346 8062

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14703 NIAGARA RIVER PKWY | $2,895,000

One of Niogora's most extroordinory homes. Historic seot of the Larkin family and located on the banks of the mighty Niagara River near Queenston. More than 5000 square feet that the current owners have added to and updated with great attention to the historical detail. 6 bedrooms, 5 baths, 8 fireplaces, triple car garage, in ground pool and dock. Also avail to lease $5,500/mth plus utilities.

Kevan & James* O'Connor***

905-468-7700

FOR LEASE $1450/MO.

2032 YORK ROAD | $489,000

Escarpment view property overlooking Niagara Township. Large 70 by 224 ravine lot with walkout basement. Home needs some TLC but has updated kitchen and baths. Large deck off oversized finished breezeway. 3 bedrooms and 1 ½ baths. Finished basement with walkout and 1 car attached garage

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

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Unique Niagara-on-the-Lake Find

This previous Bed & Breakfast hosted such stars as the much loved Jim Cavezel & wife. Sitting on a beautifully treed 2.75 acres lot, this lovely home boasts 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, a fully finished basement and a huge entertainment room, with wood fireplace. This gorgeously landscaped property also has a pond, several barns and other out-buildings and with every fruit tree imaginable this little paradise would make the perfect retreat for any hobby farmer

Contact Tammy Pollquin*

905-688-4561 for more information.

NEW LISTING

5608 WOODLAND BLVD, NIAGARA FALLS | $375,000

Deep lot 70' x 190' with inground pool. Quiet neighbourhood. Close to shopping ond highwoy occess. Remodelled bothrooms. 3+ bedrooms, new roof, new furnoce & A/C.

BEV WIEBE* 289-407-5899

NEW LISTING

45 PIERPOINT DRIVE | $579,000

Spacious family home close to schools Open concept living space Kitchen with walk-in pantry, master bedroom with spectacular walk-in closet and 5 piece ensuite, 2 extra bedrooms and bath and upper level laundry room

HELEN MOSCA905-650-5669

AARON CHERNEY905-401-7915

SOLD

6762 CHRISTINE COURT | $1,198,000

Timeless elegance best describes this George Schneider built bungalow in Calaguiro Estates Immaculate and very well maintained 4 bedroom, 4 bath, finished lower features radiant heat , archways, large principal rooms, trayed and coffered ceilings, 3 car garage an a manicured sprinklered oversized private lot at the base of the Niagara Escarpment Wonderful opportunity

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SOLD

360 DORCHESTER | $797,000

3 Bedroom 2 1/2 bath bungalow updated, chef's kitchen, refurbished Schwenker inground concrete pool (the best) in o greot port of town.

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Comedy, music trivia nights help support Terry Fox Foundation

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Advance

There are two events supporting the Terry Fox Foundation scheduled this month – the first being on Sept. 10 at the Kinsmen Hall, featuring local comedian Joe Pillitteri. All the proceeds from the evening will support his personal goal of raising $10,000 for this year's Terry Fox Run.

Graham Davidson will also perform at the comedy show.

"The community has been so great at supporting this event so we try to create one night of fun and help raise money at the same time," said Pilliteri, the master of ceremonies for the event, which will open its doors at 7 p.m.

Tickets are $40 and can be reserved by phoning 905-651-1053.

There will also be a 'Tunes for Terry' trivia night on Sept. 16 at the St. Vincent de Paul church hall, supporting the Terry Fox Foundation. Organizers are asking fir a $15 donation and there will be pizza, beer and wine available. Tickets can be reserved by calling Joan King at 905-262-5898.

The Terry Fox Run will be held Sept. 18, beginning in Simcoe Park.

Pillitteri will also support the Kristen vFrench Advocacy Centre by serving as the master of ceremonies for an event on Sept. 15 at Club Roma. The keynote speaker will be former National Hockey League player Patrick O'Sullivan, where he will discuss his book 'Breaking Away,' a memoir about abuse he suffered during his childhood.

Tickets can be purchased on the event's Eventbrite page or by phoning 905-937-5435 ext. 7000.

Joe Pillitteri

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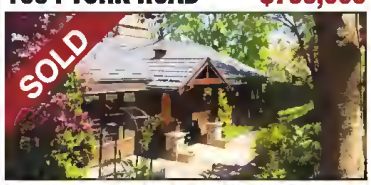
50 FIRELANE 11A $2,695,000

Truly a home for all seasons, this water front estate commands panoramic sunsets and stunning views of the Toronto Skyline. This remarkable light-filled residence has been cleverly designed with all four sides showcasing splendid and varied views. Features include grand fireplaces, character wood paneling, French doors and expansive windows. The home is surrounded by lush multilevel gardens accented by rock walls and wooded areas, gazebo, inlet for launching and full shoreline protection. Situated in the heart of wine country and only minutes to the historic town of Niagara on the Lake. **MLS 30537334. Thomas Elliott and Viviane Elliott.**

1654 YORK ROAD $799,000

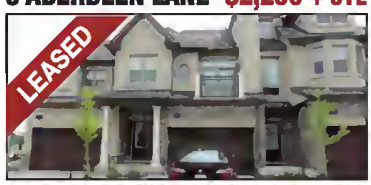


Stunning escarpment views from this 2400 sq. ft. bungalow situated on a private 1 acre property. Features include large principal rooms, expansive windows, vaulted ceilings, massive stone fireplace, character wood beam construction, hardwood flooring, 3 main floor bedrooms and a large finished rec room with granny suite. This unique home offers a tranquil setting with a priceless view set in the charming village of St. David's close to QEW and the US border. **MLS N30058367. Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

21 CREEKSIDE DRIVE $884,900

Nearly 3000sq. Beautiful new bungalow, full walkout basement! 1867sq feet on the main floor, 10' ceilings. Porcelain tiled foyer leads to open concept kitchen/dining/living space with raised deck. H/wood floors and tile throughout. Master with 5pc ensuite, two other bedrooms. Extensive pot lights, storage and high quality finishes throughout. Downstairs a further bedroom, beautiful 3pc bathroom and a huge family room. Home security, granite countertops, quality light fixtures, lots of windows, stainless appliances, big double garage. **MLS 30522881. Robert Wilkinson and Kevin Stokes**

9 ABERDEEN LANE $2,250 + UTL

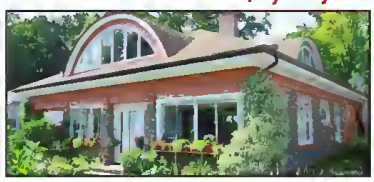


Brand new luxury 1350 sq. ft. two-bedroom condo townhome suitable for retired or professional singles or couple . All accommodation on main floor plus finished basement. All appliances included. Hardwood and ceramic floors throughout. Available September 1st. **MLS# 30532779. Kevin Stokes.**

38 ELIZABETH STREET $2,500

Executive rental situated in the award winning development known as "The Village" The location is ideally suited to take full advantage of all that Niagara-on-the-Lake has to offer. Garden maintenance and snow removal included in rent. Utilities to be paid by the Tenant. Long term lease preferred. Six-month lease would be considered. Furnished is an option. **MLS# 30536479. Audrey Wright or Chris Bowron**

34 VINCENT AVENUE $1,055,000



A rare opportunity to own a remarkable 3600 sq. ft. home facing the lake with spectacular views. This carefully maintained fieldstone/stucco home features main floor master ensuite. Enjoy the all-weather sunroom and the second floor great room overlooking the lake at the front, with a balcony at the back over the garden. This lovely home offers a unique opportunity to enjoy life in an enviable location in Niagara-on-the-Lake. **MLS 30532985. Colleen Blake.**

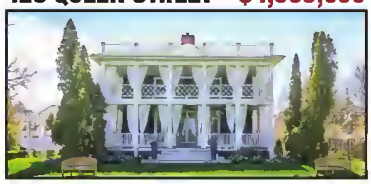
39 COLONEL COHOE $849,000

An outstanding 4 years new sophisticated, open concept bungalow with approx. 3000 sq. ft. of finished living space in the original phase of The Village enjoying long sunset views across the vineyards. Features include vaulted and 10 ft ceilings, fabulous kitchen, 2+2 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms, 39 ft. screened porch, courtyard oasis with 15 x 8 ft. plunge pool with cascading waterfall and double garage + parking space. **MLS 30531630. Viviane Elliott and Thomas Elliott.**

235 SIMCOE STREET $995,000

This beautiful Georgian style home circa 1828 has been impeccably restored and is complimented by all the amenities of today. Many wonderful features include five fireplaces. This home has immense appeal, great location, elegance, quality and style. Cedar shake roof (2016). **MLS 30532009. Bonnie Grimm or Victoria Bolduc.**

428 QUEEN STREET $4,395,000



"Magnolias" Circa 1893. A magnificent Southern Plantation style residence situated on almost an acre in the heart of Niagara on the Lake. Enjoy unobstructed breathtaking views of the Golf course and lake Ontario. **MLS 30519379. Chris Bowron or Audrey Wright.**

39 PIERPOINT DRIVE $2,250. + UTL

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12 UPPER CANADA DRIVE $729,000

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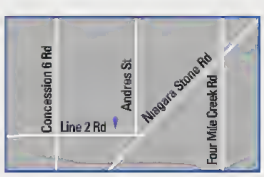

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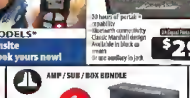

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Paid parking at the Glen? Petition says no way

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

A change.org petition has been created to convince the Niagara Parks Commission not to install parking meters at Niagara Glen next year.

The NPC announced paid parking will begin at Thompson Point this week, while parking meters will be installed at the glen by next spring. The rates at both sites — which previously offered free parking — will be in effect between May and October.

Parking rates at Thompson Point are $1.25 an hour, or a maximum of $10 a day. The same rates will apply at Niagara Glen next spring.

The petition was started on the weekend by William Durrant, of Niagara Falls. It's titled "Niagara Parks! Niagara residents want free parking at the Glen!!"

Within one day, the petition received nearly 100 signatures.

"The Niagara Parks are Niagara's green space for free, healthy, happy, family activities. Let's tell Niagara Parks that we want to continue to have free access to the Niagara Glen (Steel Stairs)," reads the petition letter.

Janice Thomson

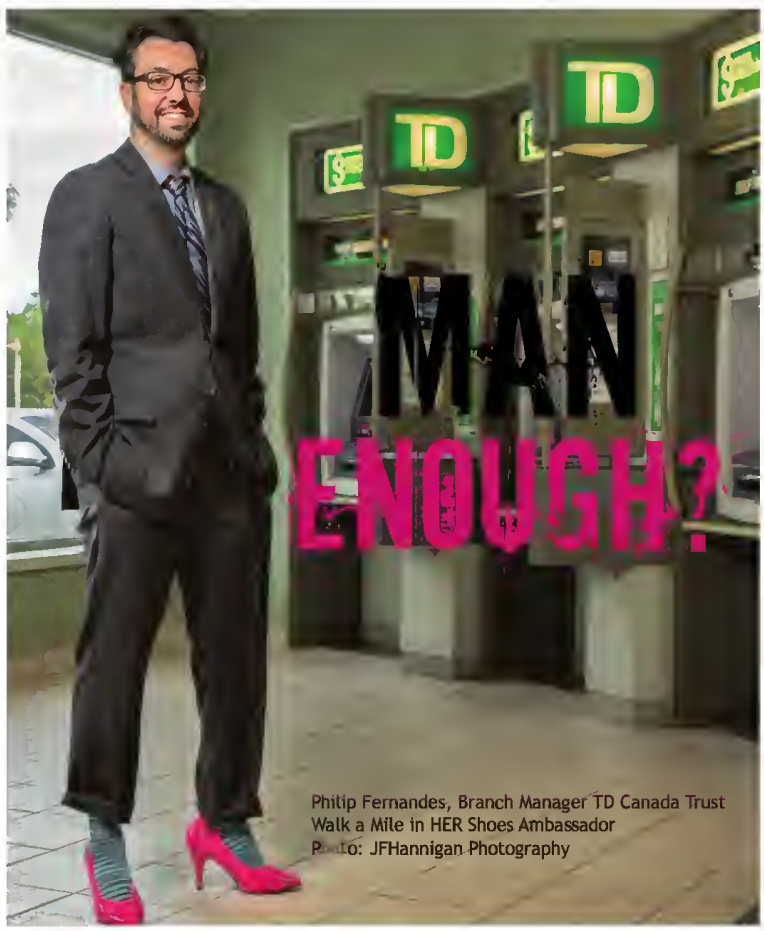
The petition is expected to be delivered to several people, including NPC chairwoman Janice Thomson and Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati.

"For lifelong residents, you're going to lose a lot of locals that loved walking around these parts," Niagara Falls resident Rich Morley wrote on the online petition. "Sure, the park is self-funded, but this isn't the way to go."

CONTINUED > PAGE 21

RAY SPITERI/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A change.org petition has been created to try and convince the Niagara Parks Commission against installing parking meters at Niagara Glen next year.



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Thomson: Paid parking is 'not about driving more revenue'

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 20

Niagara Falls resident Sandra Mansfield said she's a full-time student who doesn't have any spare money.

"This is one place I can affordably go to relax."

Caitie Cushman said as a lifelong resident of Niagara Falls, "this disgusts me."

"It already costs residents an unrealistic amount to park anywhere down in the tourist area, let alone to participate in any of the attractions; one of the main reasons my family doesn't go," she wrote.

"Now you want to charge us to park on a hiking trail? This is robbery, plain and simple. Sure, your rates are 'low' now, but how long until they spike to $15 a day, $20 a day? How long until it's going to be exclusive property of the rich and the tourists, as everything else in this city?"

Thomson said she's aware of the petition.

"I've put a response on there indicating the rationale, trying to support the rationale behind the parking-expansion decision," she said.

"Obviously, there's a lot of public interest, and it's something that we'll need to look into further — some of the suggestions people are making, some of the questions they've raised, need further examination."

One of the questions that has come up, said Thomson, is about the NPC's annual parking pass available to residents.

"It's $50 a year and you can park in any of the lots. But the question has come up: Is that specific to the one car? What if you are a two- or three-car family? Is it a pass that you can move from car to car? So there are areas I think we need to talk about at the Parks regarding flexibility of things like that."

Thomson maintained the introduction of paid parking at Thompson Point and Niagara Glen is "not about driving a lot more revenue."

"Our goal is to manage the parking that's there, to make sure that we keep fire lane access open, emergency vehicle access (open)," she said.

"I know anything to do with charging for parking is unpopular and people are skeptical of this reason, but it truly is correct. Once we manage the parking lot, then the supply and demand is better controlled, and it provides a safer environment."

Thomson said there are 144 parking spots at the glen. The commission projects to generate $25,000 in revenue from paid parking at the glen from May until October.

She said there are 65 parking spots at Thompson Point. The commission projects to generate $2,500 during that same period.

Thomson said it's not that the glen is prone to accidents, but if parking is not "delineated, and if it isn't managed and controlled, people start to park on the sides of the road, across areas that are perhaps existing fire lane access roads.

"It's just a matter of being able to manage it and delineate it as a controlled parking lot."

She said it's possible, because of the petition and other potential feedback, that the NPC might revisit its decision.

"We can always reconsider. We certainly will go back and talk to the staff about this, and take all the input that we're hearing."

Thomson said the commission has more than 70 parking areas within the Parks system — 13 of them are paid-parking areas, such as the lot across from Table Rock.

Thomson said the commission is not considering installing paid parking at other areas, such as Dufferin Islands.

"That hasn't been contemplated at all. Several of (the parking areas), I know they're being used now by cyclists who park there and leave their car there for the day and people park in the shadier areas along the area and have picnics. It's recognized that those are very important services for the public, and there was never any discussion about anything beyond the areas that have been announced."

WildPlay Niagara's Whirlpool Adventure Course, expected to open soon, is located at Thompson Point. Anyone visiting the new attraction will not be required to pay for parking.

Regular visitors to the Niagara Glen will be able to purchase an annual parking pass for $30.

Parking passes for the glen will be available at the Niagara Glen Nature Centre beginning in spring 2017. For more information, visit www.niagaraparks.com/parking, or phone 905-356-0943.

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A change.org petition has been created to try and convince the Niagara Parks Commission against installing parking meters at Niagara Glen next year.

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Niagara police looking to armour up

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Niagara Regional Police are hoping to add a "tactical rescue vehicle" to its arsenal, following a trend across the country.

They have included a proposal for a $300,000 expenditure in the draft 2017 capital budget for the vehicle, which is blast-proof, has gun ports and weighs more than 6,750 kilograms.

That request will come up at the Niagara police services board committee meeting Thursday.

"It's an operational tool we will use, but it's also an like an insurance policy," police Chief Jeff McGuire says. "You hope you never need it, but when that radio call comes — whether it is a farmhouse in a rural area, or a shopping centre or a school — you need to have it on the road right away.

"That's not the time to be thinking, 'Boy, we really need this.'"

McGuire recognizes there is some sticker shock, but the vehicle has a life span of 15 to 20 years, which would "spread out" the cost.

In Ontario, Hamilton, Toronto, London, Peel, Durham and Ottawa police have all travelled down this road with their boards. They have armoured vehicles in their fleets. So do Sault Ste. Marie and the OPP.

"Unfortunately, some of what people see in their minds is what they see on CNN with major riots south of the border," McGuire says. "They see the vehicle is rolling down the middle of the street dispensing tear gas and firing a water cannon.

"People need to understand the rescue part is the key piece. It's a vehicle we can use when we get called to situations where we simply can't approach safely. It protects the public and our officers."

Police board chair Bob Gale has some serious questions about the cost, but wants to hear the chief's presentation before he officially reacts.

"I don't think it is a good idea at all, but I will let the chief explain his case," Gale says. "We need him to show us where he has needed it in the past. Then we will make a decision on it as a board.

"We don't have $300,000. I get that we might need it, but we can't just have things just sitting in our yard, especially if we can share them."

Gale says fellow board member David Barrick took the lead when it came to increasingly sharing resources with police services in Hamilton and Buffalo.

"We need to do deals with them if we can," Gale says. "For instance, Waterloo uses our dive team. If they have to wait a couple of hours for our dive team to get up there, we can wait for an armoured car."

McGuire is skeptical a sharing agreement would work in the case of an armoured vehicle.

"It's not really feasible," he says. "If I were the chief or board chair in Hamilton, I would feel I had made a significant investment in the safety of my community.

"I wouldn't want my armoured vehicle in Fort Erie or Port Colborne on the day something happened in my jurisdiction. In an absolute emergency, it is a possibility — but not on a regular basis."

Kevin Walby, a criminologist from at University of Manitoba, has been watching the use of armoured vehicles by police spread across the country.

He says high-risk and high-threat situations exist, and the use of the vehicles in those situations is obviously justified, but there is more to the story.

Walby is alarmed — and says the public should be alarmed — when police use armoured vehicles for what he considers regular policing duties, even if it is a high-risk activity such as serving a search warrant in a drug investigation.

"The vehicle is essentially a tank — and there isn't a lot of research on whether the escalation of force stimulates the chaos the police say they are trying to prevent," he says.

"In the U.S. they have all these 'no knock' raids that are very much like military operations. There is a lot gun fire exchanged — and a lot of people are killed. The police come in and someone is holding a kettle in a dark room. Those people get shot.

"That's not what we want to see happen in Canada."

The fear, prevalent among civil libertarians in the U.S., is when you dress and arm your officers in military equipment, they lose sight of their role to serve and protect the community — and act with increasing aggression.

McGuire offers no apologies for the way his emergency task unit is dressed and equipped.

"Our emergency response team, our tactical units, are militarized," he says. "They are equipped with military equipment. They wear military uniforms. They are trained differently. They are the ones we call in when it is an extreme and dangerous situation.

"Do we intend to have them running around in downtown St. Catharines and Niagara Falls in an armoured vehicle? The simple answer is no."

Walby says he has heard anecdotally from officers that police in Canada are indeed using the vehicles for routine police work.

"The claim is that serving these warrants has become far more dangerous," he says. "The police are saying there are more guns out there. That may, or may not, be the case.

"I would like to see more reporting on things like the actual number of guns found in these raids. Raids have always been a dangerous activity for the police. I'm not saying it isn't, but I would like to see claims substantiated with statistics.

"When police buy armoured vehicles, when they buy helicopters, when they spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on these types of paramilitary toys, they don't have to justify it with a report and statistics as other government agencies do."

As if to illustrate Walby's point, Hamilton Police won't release information or statistics about how often and why their armoured vehicle is used.

•••

The reporter e-mailed questions to the Hamilton Police Sevice media relations department:

"My name is Bill Sawchuk. I'm a reporter with Postmedia Network.

"I am working on a story about Niagara acquiring a 'tactical rescue vehicle/armoured car.'

"I am wondering if I can talk to someone with Hamilton Police Services about the use of the tactical rescue vehicle.

"Are there stats available about its deployment: what for, when, how often?"

Answer from Hamilton Police:

"Bill, thank you for you e-mail. Please find our response below:

"The service's rescue vehicle is used for many calls involving the emergency response unit. The objective of the unit is to prevent the loss of life. The rescue vehicle is deployed for protection, to evacuate injured citizens or officers, during high-risk incidents; to safely evacuate citizens from a dangerous area and in hostage and barricaded incidents."

Reporter's response:

"Thanks, Catherine. That's helpful.

"Is there any breakdown of how often it is deployed?

"Is there any breakdown of how often it is deployed in each of the situations you listed?"

Answer from Hamilton Police:

"Thanks, Bill: as per previous e-mail, it's deployed when required."

(Reporter bangs his head on the desk, repeatedly)

Reporter's response:

"I understand it is deployed as required.

"Could you tell me how many times it was required in 2015?"

Answer from Hamilton Police:

"I will be away from the office until Tuesday, Sept. 6, and will have no access to e-mail or voicemail until I return."

•••

Walby says there is a perception that police look enviously at what their law enforcement neighbours have and demand new equipment.

"That doesn't really meet the bar of what we expect of public officials," he says. "Other government agencies have to do their homework and work really hard to justify new expenditures. They are subject to tons of scrutiny. They have to provide cost-benefit analyses and other reports. The police seem to be able to evade all that."

bsawchuk@postmedia.com

THE CANADIAN PRESS/GRAHAM HUGHES
The Montreal Police department's new armoured vehicle is shown at a press launch in Montreal in 2013.

ANOTHER USE?

Kevin Walby, a criminologist from at University of Manitoba, has been watching the acquisition and increased use of armoured vehicles by police in Canada.

He has noticed another mission for which the tactical rescue vehicles are used — which he finds ironic.

"The No. 2 usage — interestingly enough — is to trot them out for public relations events and let kids climb on them and let families poke their noses inside. It is essentially a tank. It's a strange kind of way to broker trust and legitimacy with the public."

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New home for Yellow Door Theatre

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

The Yellow Door Theatre Project has found its permanent home.

A year after arriving in Niagara, the youth-oriented company will be operating out of a former fitness centre on Line 2 Road in Virgil. It's where the company will offer classes, workshops, dance lessons and more now that founder Andorlie Hillstrom has some elbow room.

The company had been in a classroom in the former Virgil Public School.

"We grew out of the space, quite literally," says Hillstrom, the founder of Regina's Do It With Class Young People's Theatre. "Last December I was hearing the (new) space had become available."

She met with building owners Lloyd and Regina Redekopp and didn't just find new landlords, but two strong supporters of the arts, especially children's theatre. They agreed to bear some of the financial burden for the first six months of the lease.

"So we can get on our feet," says Hillstrom. "They have very kindly made this a far easier situation for us to move into.

"We're a not-for-profit and it will make a huge difference."

In return, the company has named the space The Redekopp Creative and Performing Arts Centre.

"We thought, if they were willing to do that – to ensure we had that support – that we should acknowledge what they're doing."

While the company will rehearse its annual December production in the new space, performances will still take place at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. This year's show is The Little Prince, starting Dec. 14.

After decades fostering young performers in Regina (one of her students was Orphan Black star Tatiana Maslany), Hillstrom – with prodding from her daughter – moved to Niagara last year following a battle with breast cancer.

The company proved so popular, Hillstrom couldn't offer what parents requested because of the space.

"I was receiving more and more calls from people wanting more skill training," she says.

She intends to make the new space available to the community and other theatre companies.

In addition to one large multi-purpose studio it has a medium-size dance studio, a board room, change rooms with showers and washrooms, and a workshop space for set and costume design.

The grand opening will be held Sept. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 504 Line 2 Road. www.yellowdoortheatre.com

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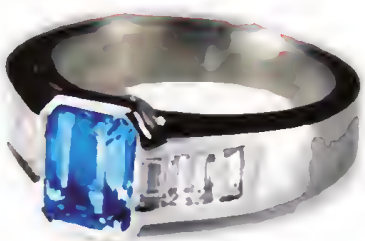

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Small business should consider dental benefits

According to the research reported by Postmedia Network, between two million and three million people in Ontario cannot afford to see a dentist.

This lack of substantive dental care is apparently costing Ontario's health-care system more than $30 million a year.

It is a peculiar thing that our lips, throats and tongues are covered by Medicare but our teeth and gums are not. Clearly our "toothless approach" to health care is taking a serious bite out of the budget.

The actual cost of so many Ontarians not being able to afford dental care is undoubtedly much higher when you consider the link between poor oral health and diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and even Alzheimer's disease.

And the consequences do not end there.

Research shows a strong link between tooth decay, psychological suffering and social isolation. Poor dental health can also interfere with employment opportunities.

These costs may be difficult to calculate, but what's clear is that far too many people in our province are treating infections with antibiotics, living with pain and experiencing barriers because they cannot afford preventive dental treatment.

The 2,300 visits to the ER because of pain and infection, a number that's grown by three per cent over the past three years, is not surprising when you consider a third of Canadians are without public or private dental insurance. What choice do they have?

The Niagara Dental Health Coalition is advocating for the expansion of publicly funded dental health program so vulnerable people in our communities have equitable access to the dental services they need to be healthy.

Hopefully the province's commitment to Putting Patients First addresses dental health inequities by expanding dental programs for low-income adults and seniors. This is an important part of the solution. But as a community, there is more we can do to fill the gap.

More employers need to consider offering a health benefit package to their staff.

Many people in the business community may balk at the idea, but before you dismiss it, consider the benefits.

Take the Irish Harp in Niagara-on-the-lake, for example. This old-town, pub-style establishment has a staff of 35 with most staff earning a server's wage. In Ontario that's $9.80 an hour.

Dan Muir, managing partner of the Irish Harp, decided to introduce health benefits to his employees about two and half years ago. His motivation for doing so was an opportunity to foster a dedicated staff who are invested in his business.

"When one of our staff needs dental work done, it does not become a financial ruin to them," says Muir.

He sees health benefits as an excellent recruitment and retention strategy for small businesses, especially restaurants that typically see a high turnover rate.

According to Muir, "people rarely leave the Irish Harp to work at another restaurant. They typically only leave when they are making a career move."

Muir has also noticed lower absenteeism since introducing health benefits.

"I strongly encourage other small businesses to consider buying into a plan. It may cost a little, but the benefits far outweigh the costs," he says.

Small business may think they cannot afford it, but the advantages of employee benefits will likely outweigh the consequences of not having them in the long term.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Irish Harp staff in Niagara-on-the-Lake have dental benefits, which the owner says is key to employee retention and lower absenteeism.

Scott Moore from Tailored Financial Solutions offers an example of what these costs might look like for a small business:

A family-run business with a staff of three can purchase life insurance, dependent life insurance, prescription drug coverage, paramedical practitioner coverage, hospital coverage, vision and travel as well as dental care (full coverage of basic services, and partial coverage of endodontic and periodontal services, and major restorative services), and critical illness coverage for $400 a month for a family plan, or $170 for single coverage. If someone opted for dental only, the monthly cost would be $200 for a family or $80 for single coverage.

Of course, with more employees comes a better rate — and if you are chamber of commerce member your plan is nationally pooled, meaning health and dental claims incurred by a small firm do not directly influence your annual renewal. The claims incurred by the entire pool influences the renewal each year, allowing for stable, manageable renewal rates that a small business can handle.

According to the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN), the annual cost of living for a family of four in Niagara is $65,435.51. Disability, life insurance and health benefits are part of the calculated cost coming in at 5239.50 annually, or 12.5 per cent of the family budget.

Employers offsetting health benefit costs would help many individuals and families come a little closer to earning a living wage in Niagara.

Based on the NPRN's recent calculations, employers who provide both health benefits and life/disability insurance could reduce the living wage to $14.47. Sure individuals will have to contribute toward their plan, but they still come out ahead and so would their employers.

If you are a business owner not currently offering benefits to your employers, contact your chamber of commerce and consider exploring this option.

If you support the expansion of publicly funded dental health programs for adults and seniors living on a low income, take a moment to the sign an e-card and message to Ontario's health minister, Dr. Eric Hoskins: www.socialplanningtoronto.org/togetherontario-dental.

Rhonda Barron is chairwoman of the Niagara Dental Health Association and a health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie.

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Are you waiting to treat prostate cancer?

Doctors have stressed for years it's vital to treat all cancers early to increase the chance of cure. But one rogue malignancy rarely obeys the rules.

Now, a report in the Canadian Medical Association Journal says, "active surveillance" is increasingly used to treat prostate cancer. The big question is, how many patients want to wait when told they have a malignancy?

But why is this currently a choice? Autopsies show that 50 per cent of men over age 59 have prostate cancer, and three in four over 85. One in seven North Americans will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, yet only one in every 28 men will die of it. Obviously, not all need to be treated.

Why does this happen? It's because prostate cancer can be as tame as a pussy cat. Many men may die of other diseases never knowing they have this malignancy. However, some prostate cancers act like a raging tiger that kills. How do doctors decide which is which?

Unfortunately, it's not easy. The PSA test measures the level of a protein in the blood produced hy the prostate gland. The higher the level the greater the chance of trouble. But some authorities argue the PSA test should never be done as it can result in needless treatment, with complications such as urinary incontinence and impotence. But if the test has already been ordered and found abnormal, a decision must be made.

The next step involves biopsies of the prostate gland. These are analyzed hy a pathologist to evaluate the cellular pattern. He reports what's called the Gleason Score, of 1 to 10. The higher the number the greater the risk of trouble.

The problem is that neither test is infallible. Consequently, this rogue malignancy has always required the wisdom of Solomon to predict which cancers should he treated. So now what criteria are doctors using when they suggest watchful waiting?

First, several hiopsies must show relatively normal-looking cells. Being an older patient is a help as there's a possibility of death from other medical prohlems before death from prostate cancer. The prostate gland will also be monitored at regular intervals by rectal exams, more PSA tests, CT scans and possibly repeat biopsies.

At the first sign that the guidelines are changing, then a decision must be made as to the hest method of treatment.

I have spent hours reading international reports of the results of active, watchful waiting. The jury is still out. So, hoth doctors and patients must make the decision of their life when faced with this rogue cancer.

The grim fact is that some patients who decide on watchful waiting will die if the cancer spreads to other organs hefore treatment is started. But, on the other hand, some will also die prematurely from surgical complications when their life is not threatened by the cancer.

Several years ago a tennis friend, during an annual checkup, had a PSA test done. His level was slightly elevated. But five biopsies of the prostate gland were normal. Then a sixth one revealed a slight change. Since he was 74 years of age these minute microscopic cells might not have killed him for 15 years. So I strongly and repeatedly advised him against surgery. But psychologically, he could not live knowing a few cells were ahnormal. A radical prostatectomy was done. He died of a blood clot (pulmonary embolism) as he was walking out of the hospital. It was the result of the surgery and a totally needless death.

It's been said that "If you're not confused about prostate cancer, you don't know what's going on!" But once diagnosed, a decision must he made.

Some men, with young wives and families, may be unwilling to accept watchful waiting as being too risky. Older ones may prefer to live with the devil they know than face the potential complications of treatment. As one of the experts remarked years ago, "Getting older is invariably fatal, cancer of the prostate only sometimes."

Remember, this column is only for informational purposes and not intended to treat or cure disease. You must always see your own doctor.

Dr. Ken Walker (Gifford-Jones) is a graduate of University of Toronto and Harvard Medical School. He trained in general surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester, Montreal General Hospital, McGill University and in gynecology at Harvard. His column is published by 70 Canadian newspapers, as well as internationally. For more information, visit docgiff.com or email info@docgiff.com.

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NOTL Rangers Basketball Programs for 2016-2017
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U12 Major Atom Boys Rep Team (born in 2005/2006) (grades 5/6)
Boys & Girls Development Program – Grades 1-5
Tryouts Begin September 19, 2016

If unable to attend registration, contact:
Jennifer Caughill
NOTL Rangers Basketball
Tel: 905-468-9408 • winnersdaycamps@cogeco.ca

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Brief

Bottle drive to support cadets

Proceeds raised from a bottle drive will support for the 809 Newark Air Cadets.

Residents are encouraged to donate empty liquor, wine, beer bottles and cans during the fundraiser, which is planned for Saturday, Sept. 10.

Donations can be dropped off at Van Noort Greenhouses, at 2069 Creek Rd., or 5 Front. St. between 8:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Pick-up is available in Old Town and Garrison Villages. Bottles must be near the house.

For more information call Tony Hendriks at 905-687-0278 or Scott Ruttan at 905-468-9735.

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- Over 20 years of teaching experience, and over 30 + years of performing.
- Studied and performed across Europe.
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Niagara schools beat Ont. average in repair needs

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

Niagara's school buildings are faring much better than elsewhere in Ontario, a new provincial study suggests.

Recently-released data from the Education Ministry indicates the province's schools are in need of about $15.4 billion in repairs.

"I think DSBN is in relatively good shape," said District School Board of Niagara spokesman Brett Sweeney.

"When the school year begins next week, students can be expected to be welcomed in excellent buildings."

The ministry uses a "facility condition index" that compares total five-year renewal needs to the cost of rebuilding a facility.

The results — fixing a school or rebuilding it -- give a school its FCI, and is measured as a percentage. A school with a lower FCI, for example, needs less money for remedial or renewal work relative to its value.

In one example cited by the ministry: if it is estimated rebuilding a school would cost $1 million but repairing it would cost $100,000, the school would have an FCI rating of 10 per cent -- a good figure.

Toronto District School Board has the highest FCI average at 53 per cent.

For Niagara's two big school boards, the average FCI for each is lower than the provincial average -- 20 per cent for DSBN and 25 per cent for Niagara Catholic District School Board. The average provincial score is 27.5 per cent.

Data was collected in collaboration with provincial boards between 2011 and 2015, with about 4,500 schools assessed.

Of five-year projects and estimated costs for DSBN's highest-FCI schools, DeWitt Carter in Port Colborne needs an estimated $3.96 million in work, including electrical system replacement, lighting retrofits, mechanical upgrades, air handling systems and other issues.

In St. Catharines, Dalewood has an estimated $5.63 million worth of work to be done over five years. Projects include windows and doors, accessibility improvements and electrical service upgrades.

Eastdale Secondary School in Welland requires $11.98 million in work to be done in that time frame for such projects as science lab retrofits, lighting and energy upgrades and air handling and ventilation improvements.

DSBN, which provided those details, said the work is subject board and ministry approval.

Sweeney said DSBN has been allocated $48 million by the province over the 2015-17 school years for such improvements.

The ministry said the 2015-17 renewal funding figure for Niagara Catholic is $27 million.

John Crocco, education director of Niagara's Catholic board, said its facilities services group has been overseeing 100 projects this summer.

They include the new $10-million St. Martin Catholic Elementary School in Smithville, and upgrades to Saint Paul Catholic High School in Niagara Falls, with the addition of a high-performance athletic centre and culinary arts facility. More than $7 million was also shelled out in renovations and maintenance work throughout the Catholic system.

"Throughout the year our facilities services team's focus will be to continually ensure that all of our facilities are healthy and safe environments for students and staff," Crocco said.

For the DSBN, the biggest issues in general are mechanical improvements including boilers, electrical and fire safety systems, Sweeney said.

Sweeney said it's important for parents to know FCI ratings are not a measure of a school's safety.

"Our schools are safe, and anything identified as an urgent repair is addressed immediately," he said. "I kind of view these things as seeing the mechanic, said Sweeney, he might say 'yes your tires are OK, but you might need to replace them soon.'"

The province is providing school boards with an additional $11 billion over a decade to help build new schools, reduce surplus space through consolidations and improve existing facilities.

As a whole, Queen's Park also recently announced $1.1 billion in additional funding over the next two years for school repair and renewal — bringing the investment in school repair and renewal to $2.7 billion for 2015-17.

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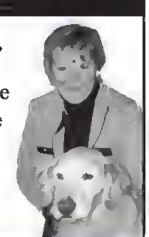

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The Trews rock the stage

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The Trews rocked the stage at Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery on Friday.

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Title: Revive Us Again

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Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
384 Concession 7 Rd
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info@lifeabundantniagara.com
www.lifeabundantniagara.com

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11:00 am Worship Service
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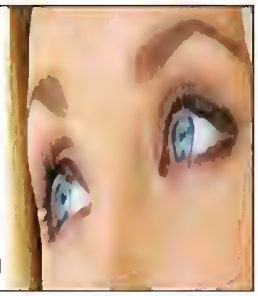

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Obituaries

DENNEY, Wilfred Thomas - peacefully on September 1, 2016 at the Brantford General Hospital in his 88th year. Loving husband of Gloria for 56 years. Devoted father of Michael, Joel and Ginger (Michael Lynch). Will be missed by his grandchildren Kyle, Jamie and Travis. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of his life will be held on Thursday September 22 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm at Caroline Cellars Winery, 1010 Line 2 Rd, Niagara - on - the - Lake. A special thank you to the doctors, nurses and staff of acute care and the palliative floors. In lieu of flowers donations to the Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Societies would be appreciated. Online condolences may be made at
www.tranquilitycremation.com

KOOP, Darla Jewell - At St. Catharines General Hospital on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 Darla Koop aged 52 years, passed into the arms of her Saviour. Loving wife of Peter and dear mother of Sam, Cassie, Emily and Josh. Daughter of Dewayn & Marilyn Isaac. Predeceased by her sister Laurie Spicher (2010). The family received friends at Orchard Park Bible Church 434 Hunter Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday, Sept 2nd 2 - 4 and 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Funeral Service was held in the church on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. If desired, memorial donations to Camp Crossroads would be appreciated. Online condolences at
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In Memoriams

In Loving Memory of
CHERYL J. PERLAKI (nee Litowski)
September 12, 2015

Your life was a blessing
your memory a treasure...
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure

Sad and sudden was the call
So dearly loved by one and all
Her memory is as sweet today
As in the hour she passed away.

Loved
and remembered
always.

Pat Litowski
and family.

JANESSA ROSE NELSON
July 26, 1998 - September 3, 2008

It's been 8 years since you left us.

Loved you then,
Love you still,
Always have,
Always will.

Love
Mom, Kyla
& Gramma Rose

JARED ALLEN FRIESEN
June 8, 1978 - September 8, 2006

In Loving Memory of a dear son, brother
and uncle who left us so suddenly
ten years ago.

We thought of you with love today;
but that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday;
and days before that too.
We think of you in silence;
We often speak your name.
All we have are memories;
and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake;
with which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping;
We have you in our hearts.

Forever with us; Love Dad, Mom;
Mike, Anneliese,
Jack, Claire, Lukas;
Angie, Kevin,
Taneal, Max;
Beth, Jay & Jill

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1st St. Davids Scouts REGISTRATION NIGHT

Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
St. Davids United Church
1453 York Road, St. Davids
Contact: Thomas Keppy at tdkeppy@hotmail.com
Scouters (leaders) are needed.

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Tuesday Sept 20 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm

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For Info: Phone Greg & Rita
905-356-1611

Place your Coming Event / Community Calendar Social here, with or without a border, Colour, Graphics optional. Include your Logo! Deadline: Monday 3 pm ~ Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102

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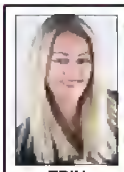
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13A SHAKESPEARE AVENUE - NOTL
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NEW LISTING!
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OUR DRONES ON HOMES VIDEO SAYS IT ALL!
Expect Location, Lifestyle, & Creature Comforts in this stylishly renovated 4+1 Bdrm Family Home close to Queenston on Niagara's famed Niagara Pkwy. Enjoy a Spectacular 1/2 acre with an inground pool & sun room. 4,000+ Living Space. Right out of Homes & Gardens Magazine! Book your showing today.
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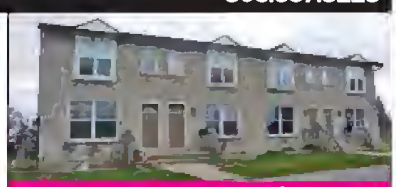
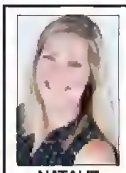
27 ANN STREET $600,000
Over 3,000 sq.ft. in this bright PORT DALHOUSIE charmer with a tandem garage & 41 x 140 ft lush yard with greenhouse. Extensive renovations & a major addition in 1991. Stunning kitchen with eating bar (over $70,000 in renovations) Up to 4 bdrms if required. 3 baths. Many possibilities!

646 SAWMILL ROAD $1,300,000
Tucked away on 10 acres of mature landscaping, you will find your oasis in PELHAM. Over 4600 sq ft with 4 bdrms, 5 F.P.'s, 3 car garage, high ceilings, tons of windows, 2 decks, geothermal heating & cooling, natural pond plus 5 acres of former maintained bush and major out building.

ATTENTION INVESTORS $2,500,000
Great opportunity for investors with lots of upside potential. 24 townhomes with 6 blocks of 4 each plus surplus land to build 10 more. Frontage on 2 streets. 8 - 2 bdrms and 16 - 3 bdrms. On site super. Appraisal '09 at 3 million. Easy Q.E.W. & Peace Bridge access.
2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU
PROUDLY SERVING THE NIAGARA REGION SINCE 1988


NATALIE KESHAVARZNIA*

1097 NORTH SERVICE ROAD - STONEY CREEK
Situated on a beautiful waterfront property of just over an acre, this unique bungalow home is perfectly positioned to take in the stunning views. 3,200 sq.ft. floorplan (plus finished basement). Easy access to the QEW. This home offers a rare opportunity!
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